

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 132

Introduced by Assembly Member Eggman

April 7, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 132—Relative to West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 132, as introduced, Eggman. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week of April 20, 2014, through April 26, 2014, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that
2 can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and
3 death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and
4 WHEREAS, In 2013, West Nile virus resulted in 14 human
5 deaths in California and over 372 individuals in 31 counties tested
6 positive for the virus, of which over 240 developed neuroinvasive
7 disease; and
8 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health and the
9 federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict West
10 Nile virus will again pose a public health threat in California in
11 2014; and
12 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,
13 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with
14 best management practices on public and private lands, are the

1 best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other
2 diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

3 WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not
4 limited to, ticks, Africanized honeybees, rats, fleas, and flies,
5 continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, and death, and
6 a public nuisance in California and around the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors
8 spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private
9 outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,
10 reduce livestock productivity, and have a negative impact on the
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based
13 on scientific research has made great advances in safely reducing
14 mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Established mosquito- and vector-borne diseases
17 such as plague, Lyme disease, flea-borne typhus, and encephalitis,
18 and new and emerging vector-borne diseases such as hantavirus,
19 arenavirus, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis cause illness and sometimes
20 death every year in California; and

21 WHEREAS, Two invasive mosquito species in California, *Aedes*
22 *albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito, which was detected in
23 southern California in 2011, and *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever
24 mosquito, which was detected in central and northern California
25 in 2013, are posing new public health threats due to their capability
26 to transmit potentially deadly or debilitating diseases, such as
27 dengue, yellow fever, and chikungunya, diseases that are not
28 currently transmitted in California, as well as other
29 encephalitis-causing viruses; and

30 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout
31 the State of California work closely with the United States
32 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of
33 Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and
34 the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-
35 and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and

36 WHEREAS, Best management practices, emphasizing
37 nonchemical approaches, have been developed to guide mosquito
38 control that can significantly reduce mosquito populations for new
39 development and on state and private lands; and

1 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health maintains
2 information on how to eliminate risks from vectors at both
3 www.cdph.ca.gov and www.westnile.ca.gov, which the public is
4 encouraged to review; and

5 WHEREAS, The public's awareness of the health benefits
6 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector
7 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the
8 state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding
9 sites on public and private property; and

10 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to
11 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government
12 agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about
13 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology
14 and control; and

15 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production
16 of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and
17 public lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of
18 mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and
19 other disease transmission is high, detection of human cases of
20 mosquito- and vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be
21 misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing, and the
22 formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide
25 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies
26 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing
27 controls; and

28 WHEREAS, West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
29 Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat
30 of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the
31 various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working
32 to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight
33 the educational programs currently available; and

34 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of
35 California has designated the week of April 20 to April 26, 2014,
36 inclusive, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
37 Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the
40 week of April 20 to April 26, 2014, inclusive, be designated as

- 1 West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness
- 2 Week; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy
- 4 of this resolution to the Governor, the State Public Health Officer,
- 5 and the author for appropriate distribution.

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